



Getting youth *out there* since 2001

Focus on Partnership

Apex is proud to partner with many organizations in our community. Partnership provides opportunities to create more impact by working together toward common goals-- most notably, the well being of our youth! This month, we are featuring two very special, very effective partnerships. More to follow. Thank you to *all* our partners!

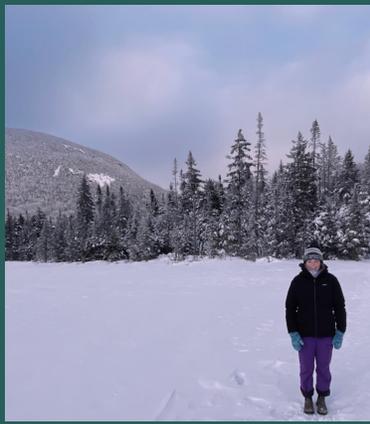
Sharing staff and support with Seeds of Hope

Each day through 2pm, Dannielle Gladu is a critical part of the team at Seeds of Hope in Biddeford. She helps individuals -- or as they are known at Seeds "neighbors" -- find housing, obtain/fill out applications, connect to resources/housing, prepare for and find jobs, and assists in teaching digital literacy skills. In the afternoons, Dannielle supports kids in Apex programs and runs our Hub Club. By working together, both our organizations are stronger with Dannielle!



Marketing assistance through partnership!

Mikayla comes to Apex through our partnership with UNE's internship program. Mikayla serves as a marketing intern for the Job Readiness Program and the Apex Bike Factory. She is currently a Junior studying Business Administration and Marketing. So far this semester, Mikayla has worked to develop standard marketing procedures for students to implement as they complete bikes that are ready to be sold. Currently, she is working on rolling out a marketing campaign to increase bike sales as customers start to think spring!



Help us continue to grow -- become an Apex partner!

Like us on [Facebook](#). Follow us on [Instagram](#). Or [donate](#) on our website.

EXPLORATION AND ADVENTURE



The spring schedule for the [Apex Outdoor School](#) will be available for registration soon! Classes include wilderness skills, navigation, backpacking skills, rock climbing and cycling. Classes are for adults and students ages 14+, with a paying adult.

Classroom sessions are Tuesday and Thursday evenings and field classes are on Saturdays. Prices range from \$25 - \$75. Contact Program Director, Phil Bailey at 207-282-9700 ext. 3 or at programs@apexyouthconnection.org for more information.

LEADERSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT

Apex Does is an after school program held at Biddeford Middle School and Saco Middle School. We focus on Community Engagement and service. We have made Valentine's day cards for elderly folks living in assisted living, thank you cards for the nurses, doctors and staff for Southern Maine Med, started school-wide recycling systems, and helped clean/organize around the school. We also



learn skills such as relationship-building, improving self direction and responsibility, and time management.

Most recently, we learned about the Animal Welfare Society's Springtime Challenge; the students drew pictures of the animals that the shelter is trying to get adopted along with some awareness posters. Next week and the following week, we plan to do no-bake dog treats and cat toys to bring to the shelter. Dannielle, our program support specialist, and Ashley and Sydney, UNE Social Work interns make Apex Does a successful, fun after school program!



JOB READINESS



As the weather has been warming up, the Job Readiness Team has been getting some miles in on the trails around Apex. In the shop, our mechanics have been busy working on rebuilding bikes and completing early spring tune ups for customers. If you are in the market for a bike, we will soon be posting bikes for sale on our Facebook page!



Behind the scenes, we are planning skill shares for students to learn more about self branding, furthering their professional skills, and product photography. We are also planning visits with businesses in the area for our students to learn more about potential employment opportunities.

If you are interested in bringing your unique experiences and expertise to our youth, please reach out about potential opportunities to volunteer to lead a SkillShare workshop!

The sky has given over
It's bitterness.
Out of the dark change
all day long
rain falls and falls
as if it would never end.
Still the snow keeps
It's hold on the ground.
But water, water
from a thousand runnels!
It collects swiftly,
dappled with black
cuts a way for itself
through green ice in the gutters.
Drop after drop it falls
from the withered grass-stems
of the overhanging embankment.

By William Carlos Williams

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